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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/462,493	01/21/2000	TOSHIYUKI MORII	P18963	5153
7590	12/17/2004		EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN 1941 ROLAND CLARK PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2654	

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/462,493	MORII ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Angela A. Armstrong	2654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3,5,6,8 and 10-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1,3,4,6,8,9,11-14,17 and 20 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 5,10,15,16,18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 05, 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 5, 10, 15-16, 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minde et al (US Patent No. 5,991,717) in view of Ozawa (US Patent No. 5,963,896).

3. Regarding claims 5, 10, 15-16, 18-19, Minde teaches an adaptive codebook in which previously synthesized excitation signals are stored; at col. 2, line 64 and col. 3, lines 33-38 a stochastic codebook in which a plurality of excitation vectors are stored, said stochastic codebook having a first subcodebook in which excitation vectors composed of a small number of

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pulses are stored and a second subcodebook in which excitation vectors composed of a large number of pulses are stored; at col. 7, lines 3-12

obtaining a synthesized speech using excitation information acquired from said adaptive codebook and said stochastic codebook, using LPC obtained by performing LPC analysis on an input speech signal; at col. 2, line 65

obtaining gain information for said synthesized speech using a relation of said synthesized speech and said input speech signal; at col. 3, lines 6-25

transmitting said LPC, said excitation information and said gain information, as inherent in the speech coder.

Minde et al do not specifically teach executing a voice/unvoiced judgment or calculating the gain of the stochastic codebook to account for the difference in the number of pulses in the codebooks.

Refer to Ozawa (col. 14, line 47 continuing to col. 16, line 21; col. 19, lines 31-55) who teaches a hybrid switched multi-pulse/stochastic speech coding technique, which makes a voice/unvoiced judgment by comparing the frame average pitch gain with respective thresholds, implements an amplitude codebook for implementing the pulse amplitude quantization, and teaches it is possible to obtain positions of any number of pulses with gain variations and to switch codebook circuits or gain codebooks using mode data. Ozawa further teaches the positions of the amplitude pulses are retrieved with a different gain for each group of pulses less in number than the total number of pulses M. Ozawa teaches that implementation of this scheme increases the accuracy of the excitation and improves the performance of the coder (col. 15, line 67 continuing to col. 16, line 3)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Minde et al to implement voice/unvoiced judgments and providing for gains to account for the differences in pulse in the codebook, as taught by Ozawa, for the purpose of improving unvoiced speech performance in low-rate coders.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-9, 11-14, 17, and 20 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed November 5, 2004, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues Minde does not disclose or suggest the use of two subcodebooks, namely a first subcodebook storing excitation vectors with a small number of pulses and a second codebook storing excitation vectors with a large number of pulses. Applicant also argues Ozawa does not recite or suggest this feature of the present invention. Applicant also argues neither Ozawa nor Minde disclose or suggests switching subcodebooks based on a distance between pulses of excitation vectors. The Examiner disagrees and argues Minde was cited as disclosing an adaptive codebook in which previously synthesized excitation signals are stored in addition to a stochastic codebook in which a plurality of excitation vectors are stored, wherein said stochastic codebook having a first subcodebook in which excitation vectors composed of a small number of pulses are stored and a second subcodebook in which excitation vectors composed of a large number of pulses are stored. Additionally, Ozawa teaches

a hybrid switched multi-pulse/stochastic speech coding technique, which makes a voice/unvoiced judgment and implements a method for calculating the pitch gain. The first and second excitation quantizers are switched to obtain desired pulse positions according to a judged mode. The voiced/unvoiced mode determination of Ozawa is based on pulse distances; the distances between the pulses exist via the voice/unvoiced relationship. Thus, the combination of Minde and Ozawa provide support for the claimed stochastic codebook comprising subcodebooks in which a small number or a large number of pulses are stored and a gain corresponding to a distance between pulses of the excitation vectors.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 703-308-6258. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (703) 305-9645. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Angela A. Armstrong
Examiner
Art Unit 2654

AAA
December 09, 2004

Angela Armstrong